

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSA-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 /055 W

-----181948 098909 /43

R 181930Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9907

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ECAC, XT, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ECAC INITIATIVES ON COMMISSIONS
AND NORTH ATLANTIC FARES

REF: PARIS 4119

1. ECAC SECRETARIAT REQUESTED FEBRUARY 18 THAT
EMBASSY TRANSMIT TO DEPT. FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BILLER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ECAC
PRESIDENT RABEN.

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2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. BILLER:

(1) I WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF
7 FEBRUARY, IN RESPONSE TO MY EARLIER LETTERS TO
YOU AND TO MICHAEL STYLES, ON THE SUBJECT OF
NORTH ATLANTIC TARIFFS AND WELCOME THE FACT
THAT YOU SHARE ECAC'S CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT

PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

(2) MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE STUDIED YOUR COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS CLOSELY, AND NOTED YOUR WISH FOR ECAC GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RATIONALE OF THE US POSITION. WHILE WE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME DISCUSSIONS TO THAT END, WE MAINTAIN THAT WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS NOT MERELY A QUESTION OF ANALYZING FACTS AND FIGURES, BUT RATHER, IS THE POLITICAL DESIRE OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN OPEN RATE SITUATION ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC AS FROM 1 APRIL 1977. WE REITERATE OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT ANY UNILATERAL ACTION OF THE CAB THAT MIGHT LEAD US ALL TO SUCH A SITUATION.

(3) THE ECONOMIC BASIS FOR JUSTIFICATION OF TARIFF LEVELS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DIFFERS FROM THAT IN THE UNITED STATES. ANY INTERNATIONAL TARIFF PACKAGE MUST THEREFORE BE A COMPROMISE, TO BE FINALLY AGREED AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL BY ALL THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. ECAC STATES DO NOT ACCEPT THAT THE OUTCOME OF AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE SHOULD BE PRE-DETERMINED BY NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF ONE COUNTRY, SUCH AS ARE INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT CAB PROCEEDINGS.

(4) WE ARE THEREFORE CONVINCED THAT FORMAL TALKS BETWEEN US AT THE DECISION LEVEL MUST TAKE PLACE WITHIN WEEKS. WE AGREE THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF EXPERTS ON TARIFF MATTERS COULD USEFULLY BE HELD IN WASHINGTON ON 9 AND 10 MARCH 1977, BUT

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WE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ECAC EXPERTS WOULD NOT BE COMING TO WASHINGTON MERELY TO EXCHANGE DATA WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM YOUR AUTHORITIES. WE WOULD EXPECT THE MEETING TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ECAC'S VIEWS TO BE FED INTO THE US DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

(5) IN OUR VIEW, THE MEETING SHOULD DEAL NOT ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE RATIONALE FOR ESTABLISHING FARES, BUT ALSO THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTING FARES AFTER 1 APRIL 1977. WE TAKE IT THAT THE CAB WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND IT WOULD THEREFORE BE DESIRABLE IF THEIR CONCLUSIONS ON THE IATA AGREEMENT COULD BE KNOWN TO OUR EXPERTS BY THE TIME THE MEETING TAKES PLACE. WE ALSO FEEL THAT THE MEETING SHOULD GIVE PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION TO THE BASIC AIMS AND EXPECTED TIMESCALE OF THE PROPOSED JOINT LONG-TERM STUDY OF THE MATTER, WHICH WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE YOU ARE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE WITH US.

(6) IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF A DECISION ON NORTH

ATLANTIC TARIFFS AND THE REAL RISK OF SERIOUS
ECONOMIC DISTURBANCE IF GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE
TARIFFS ARE NOT AGREED UPON BY 1 APRIL 1977, WE
INSIST THAT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF EXPERTS IS
FOLLOWED VERY SHORTLY BY A FORMAL MEETING AT
POLICY LEVEL. WE SUGGEST THAT SUCH A MEETING MIGHT
TAKE PLACE IN PARIS BETWEEN HIGH LEVEL ECAC AND
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES ON 29 AND/OR 30
MARCH. WITH THIS IN MIND, I INTEND, AS PRESIDENT
OF ECAC, TO ACCOMPANY OUR EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON ON
9 AND 10 MARCH IN ORDER TO HAVE PRELIMINARY
DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU AND JOHN ROBSON ON THE BEST
WAY TO DEAL WITH THE SERIOUS POLICY QUESTIONS THAT
ARE NOW BEFORE US.

YOURS SINCERELY,

HANS RABEN

PRESIDENT OF ECAC. END TEXT.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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